

EXECUTIVE BRANCH ETHICS COMMISSION

ADVISORY OPINION 96-13

March 19, 1996

RE: May employees write history for organization which provides funds to non-profit support group of agency for which the employees work?

DECISION: Yes.

This opinion is in response to your February 27, 1996 request for an advisory opinion from the Executive Branch Ethics Commission (the "Commission"). This matter was reviewed at the March 19, 1996, meeting of the Commission, and the following opinion is issued.

You state the relevant facts as follows. You have been approached by the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels ("Kentucky Colonels") for the purpose of writing a history of the organization. You will be compensated for your services relating to this project. To your knowledge, no business or regulatory relationship exists between the agency for which you work and the Kentucky Colonels. However, the Kentucky Colonels, as a private charitable organization, has provided funds to a non-profit support group of your agency which has assisted in the purchase of various equipment for your agency. You ask if it is permissible for you to accept such an assignment.

The Commission believes you may agree to write a history for the Kentucky Colonels and be compensated. Because no business or regulatory relationship exists between the agency for which you work and the Kentucky Colonels, a conflict of interest does not appear to exist. Funds provided by the Kentucky Colonels to a non-profit organization which supports your agency is not considered "doing business with" and does not create a conflict situation for you as employees of the agency.

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BY: Lynda M. Thomas, Vice Chair